

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01345 210134Z

42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 HEW-02 AID-05 OES-03 NSF-01

L-03 /039 W

----- 056465

R 201509Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7282

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1345

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJ: DUST SETTLES ON UNIVERSITY PURGE

REF: A) SANTIAGO 398, B) SANTIAGO 225, C) SANTIAGO 102,
D) 75 SANTIAGO 7367

1. SUMMARY: POLITICALLY-INSPIRED DISMISSALS OF UNIVERSITY OF CHILE TOP FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS HAVE SEEMINGLY ENDED FOR TIME BEING. EXTENT OF TURNOVER IS CONSIDERABLE, DESPITE INTERVENTION BY GROUP OF PROMINENT ACADEMICS WITH AIR FORCE JUNTA MEMBER LEIGH TO END PURGE. AT SAME TIME, MINISTER OF EDUCATION HAS CONTINUED TO STRENGTHEN HIS ROLE IN UNIVERSITY POLICYMAKING. END SUMMARY.

2. LIST OF UNIVERSITY OF CHILE ADMINISTRATORS AND ACADEMICS WHOSE FORCED RESIGNATIONS HAVE BEEN ACTED UPON BY RECTOR TAPIA PUBLISHED FEB 12. RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED TOTAL 79, RE-INSTATED 151, NEW APPOINTMENTS 70. TOTAL OF RESIGNATIONS REQUESTED WERE 40 SHORT OF EARLIER ESTIMATE OF 270. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SOME RESIGNATIONS MAY STILL REMAIN TO BE ACTED UPON, ALTHOUGH ACTION ON ALL MAJOR UNIVERSITY POSITIONS APPEARS NOW TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN. THOSE WHO HAVE LOST EXECUTIVE POSITIONS HAVE NOT NECESSARILY BEEN EXPELLED FROM TEACHING POSITIONS WHICH THEY HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 01345 210134Z

3. NEW RECTOR JULIO TAPIA HAD SOUGHT FREE HAND IN OVERHAULING UNIVERSITY'S BUREAUCRATIC JUNGLE AND IN ELIMINATING THOSE USING UNIVERSITY POSITIONS TO "COVERTLY COLLABORATE IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY"--A CATEGORY APPARENTLY INCLUDING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AS WELL AS MARXISTS (REF C). DISMISSALS APPEAR TO HAVE LARGELY CUT ACROSS IDEOLOGICAL LINES, WITH LEFTISTS, MODERATES AND EVEN SOME CONSERVATIVES LACKING EXTREME RIGHTIST IDENTIFICATION SEEMINGLY ALL VULNERABLE. MOST NEW APPOINTEES ARE NEITHER POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED WITH POLITICAL EXTREME RIGHT NOR ACADEMICALLY UNQUALIFIED. SCARCITY OF TALENTED "NEW BLOOD" AMONG REPLACEMENTS AND PRESENCE OF NUMBER OF RELATIVELY ELDERLY ACADEMICS, HOWEVER, SUGGEST THAT NEW APPOINTEES MAY HAVE BEEN PICKED IN HOPE THAT THEY WILL PROVE MORE TRACTABLE, ALLOWING RECTOR FREER HAND IN PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES AT LOWER ECHELONS.

4. WHILE EXTENT OF PURGE HAS BEEN SEVERE, ITS MAGNITUDE MIGHT HAVE BEEN EVEN GREATER EXCEPT FOR APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTION BY GROUP OF 14 ACADEMICS LED BY DR. FERNANDO MONCKEBERG, A PROMINENT NUTRITION EXPERT, WITH AIR FORCE JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH, TO WHOM SUPERVISION OF UNIVERSITIES IS ENTRUSTED. "EL MERCURIO" PUBLISHED ARTICLE BY MONCKEBERG SUPPORTER JORGE MILLAS EARLY JANUARY CONTENDING THAT A UNIVERSITY WATCHED OVER TO ASSURE POLITICAL ORTHODOXY IS LETTER BETTER THAN A UNIVERSITY THAT IS POLITICALLY COMPROMISED. LEIGHT MET JAN 22, APPARENTLY AT HIS INITIATIVE, WITH MONCKEBERG AND SUPPORTERS, WHO UNTIL THEN WERE NO MORE THAN ASSORTMENT OF LIKE-MINDED ACADEMICS IN FAVOR OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND AGAINST GOVERNMENT CONTROL OR WHICH HUNT FROM ANY SIDE. RELIABLE SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT PERSONS WHO MET WITH LEIGHT WERE QUITE OUTSPOKEN IN OPPOSITION TO UNIVERSITY OF CHILE PURGE. LEIGH REPORTEDLY ASSURED GROUP THAT FIRINGS AT UNIVERSITY WOULD STOP. SINCE THEN, NO NEW DISMISSALS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. FEB 12 LIST WAS APPARENTLY POST-MORTEM WRAP-UP OF RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED UP TO JAN 22 MEETING.

5. TREND TOWARD MORE POWER FOR MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION HAS ALSO CONTINUED, THEREBY BOLSTERING ROLE OF RIGHTISTS, AS FORESEEN IN REF C. EDUCATION MINISTER TRONCOSO DELIVERED MAJOR ADDRESS ON UNIVERSITY POLICY FEB 13

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 01345 210134Z

CALLING FOR NEW COMPREHENSIVE BASIC LAW TO WHICH ALL UNIVERSITIES WOULD CONFORM IN ORGANIZATION AND OVERALL POLICIES; STRENGTHENING OF COUNCIL OF RECTORS, OVER WHICH TRONCOSO NOW PRESIDES; AND REORGANIZATION OF PROVINCIAL BRANCH CAMPUSES OF ALL UNIVERSITIES TO BETTER RATIONALIZE AND COORDINATE EMPLOYMENT OF UNIVERSITIES' LIMITED ACADEMIC AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES. MASTER PLAN FOR PROVINCIAL BRANCH CAMPUSES WOULD CONSOLIDATE OR ABOLISH SEVERAL BRANCHES, REDUCE COMPETITION BETWEEN DIFFERENT

UNIVERSITIES, AND EMPHASIZE COURSES OF STUDY APPLICABLE TO PROVINCES WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED. TRONCOSO USED SPEECH TO AGAIN ATTACK FREI GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITY REFORM OF 1967 FOR ALLEGEDLY DISRUPTING UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT AND PRODUCING UNREALISTIC OVER-EXPANSION OF UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, A THEME ALSO STRESSED BY TAPIA. TRONCOSO ENDORSED LIMITED CONCEPT OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY PROVIDED THIS DOES NOT SIGNIFY "PROTECTION OF POLITICAL ACTION." IN APPARENT MOVE TO AVOID PROVOKING CONFLICT WITH CHURCH AUTHORITIES, HOWEVER, TRONCOSO DECLARED THAT REORGANIZATION WOULD NOT AFFECT SANTIAGO PONTIFICAL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY AND ITS BRANCH CAMPUSES UNTIL ACCORD CAN BE REACHED WITH CHURCH ON PLAN.

6. COMMENT: ONLY EXTREME RIGHT WING ELEMENTS HAVE SHOWED ENTHUSIASM FOR TAPIA'S PURGE. WHILE STOPPED, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, SEEPING CHANGES DEALT SERIOUS BLOW TO ACADEMIC COUMMUNITY'S ALREADY DEPRESSED MORALE. RECOVERY NOT IN SIGHT. INDEED, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM AND COST-CUTTING PROGRAMS, WHICH MOST AGREE ARE NEEDED, PROVIDE EXCELLENT COVER FOR ULTRA-CONSERVATIVES SUCH AS TRONCOSO AND TAPIA TO ATTEMPT FURTHER "RESTRUCTURING" OF UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNIVERSITIES, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA01345
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760065-0729
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760229/aaaaazji.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANTIAGO 398, 76 SANTIAGO 225, 76 SANTIAGO 102
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DUST SETTLES ON UNIVERSITY PURGE
TAGS: PINT, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006